

1654

COMIC SHOP NEWS



MIDNIGHT SKY

What would you do if you were convinced that someone close to you was... someone else? That, no matter how much they looked like the person you knew, they weren't?

And what if you discovered that the person close to you wasn't the only person who had been replaced?

Welcome to the world of *Midnight Sky*, a compelling new Scout Comics series from James Pruett & Scott Van Domelen. Pruett discussed the premise of the series with CSN: "For decades, the world has been at war with an invisible, secret enemy that is undetectable because they look like everyone else. Changelings, interdimensional beings from a dying world, find themselves in need of a new home and have chosen Earth, but in order to do so they must first transform the atmosphere and climate to one better suited to their own needs.

"Using the warming climate change as incentive, the First Changeling, who came to Earth through a dimensional portal that scientists had mistakenly opened to their world, is able to manipulate plans that scientists were using to attempt to reverse the warming process by cooling the atmosphere. What was hoped to be a salvation turned into Armageddon as particles placed in the Earth's atmosphere for cooling purposes were instead used to greatly block the sun's rays from penetrating the Earth's atmosphere, resulting in an eternal Midnight Sky of darkness. This resulted in massive food shortages and brought on catastrophic weather patterns, making much of the Earth's surface uninhabitable. The humans that were left were forced to migrate to what was formerly the more tropical climates as these areas still contained tolerable temperatures.

"There are three main protagonists: Jennifer, an immigrant mother originally hailing from Panama; her daughter Elita, who is half human and half Changeling as Jennifer's husband had been replaced unknowingly and they conceived her; and Alejandro, a Changeling that replaced her birth son as an infant and whom she has raised for the past 15 years. They are on a quest to Cape Canaveral, hoping to find the permanent portal to the Changelings' dimensional world in an attempt to recover the child that was taken from her as an infant by the Changelings.



Wait 'Til the Midnight Hour...

"The main problem is that, in order to do this, she would have to sacrifice the Changeling child that she has raised since infancy—the child that calls her mother. Jennifer has a nearly impossible task of deciding whether motherhood is limited to just giving birth to a child. Will she be able to make the ultimate sacrifice in order to save her natural child?

"At its core, *Midnight Sky* is a story about survival, hope, desperation, trust, and most importantly, defining the true definition of family. Is it blood, or does it go much deeper than that?"

Jennifer soon learns that she's not the only person aware that something is wrong.

"There are others—I guess you would call them the more 'enlightened' part of the population," Pruett said. "Obviously, the governments of the world attempted to keep this quiet for as long as possible—similar to UFO reports, I would assume. A lot of the population views the sightings of 'Changelings' much the way that most view 'Bigfoot' sightings. Part of it is denial; part of it is not believing it's possible."

Science fiction has long been a home for cautionary tales of conspiracy, deception, and hidden truths. "I think science fiction reflects both the hopes and fears of our minds and thoughts," Pruett said. "You can look at the 1950s for an example. There was a huge influx of alien invaders—type of stories. This was mostly reflective of the Cold War and the fear we lived in at that time. The aliens most likely represented the fear of the Russians invading or the world coming to a nuclear war. There is a lot of symbolism in science fiction that reflects the viewpoint of society at that time of creation."

Pruett has long been a fan of more symbolic, more meaningful science fiction: "I love stories that make me think. Sure, I can enjoy a good 'popcorn' movie as much as the next guy, but for a movie or story to truly resonate with me, it has to give me something to ponder, something unexpected..."

"*Invasion of the Body*

Snatchers was one of the first science fiction movies I remember watching from my childhood that I felt was truly 'creepy.' It stayed with me for days after watching it. I think sometimes we all either think or wish that some people were in fact 'replaced,' as it would explain away a lot of the misery and pain that people can afflict on each other. How can someone be that cruel? Obviously, they were replaced. I have a longtime running joke with my youngest son, Josh. When he was pretty young—four or five—and he acted up, he would say, 'That wasn't me. That was alien clone Josh.' After writing this story I'm beginning to wonder... hmmm, maybe it was..."

As much as Pruett enjoyed *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*, he drew inspiration for *Midnight Sky*

from a less widely known work. "I came across a compilation of folklore called *The Secret Commonwealth* a few years ago by Robert Kirk, which was collected sometime around 1691. In this the author wrote about visiting an alternate reality, a faerie world, where the faeries have swapped places with humans. The faerie looks mostly like the human he or she replaced, and the human ends up being sent to the world the faeries are from, as a replacement in that world or reality.



Courtesy of your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

"This got my creative juices going, and I came up with *Midnight Sky* and wrote the short story that is going to appear in *Scout Presents Midnight Sky*, Scout Comics' Free Comic Book Day release. This story is original and not a sample chapter from *Midnight Sky* #1. It completely stands alone as an introduction to the world of *Midnight Sky*.

"Even though this subject matter has been touched on in the past, there is still a lot of territory left to explore and develop, and we plan on doing that with *Midnight Sky*. The key was in determining what the motivation for these creatures would be and why they would want to replace humans. So, after researching, I came up with the concept of making them Changelings—interdimensional beings that inhabit a dying world."

Jennifer's daughter Elita plays a pivotal role in the story. "The thing that makes Elita unique is that she is half-human and half-changeling," Pruett explained. "Before Jennifer discovered that her husband had been replaced, they conceived Elita. The conspiracy theorists are calling Elita and others that may be like her the 'Salvation Children,' as it was discovered that an unintended result of the cross-breeding was that the blood of the hybrid children is lethal to the Changelings. This makes these children the main line of defense against the secret invasion; all the while, the humans still fear them as they wonder where their true alliance will ultimately be determined. Elita is truly in the middle of the war as her family consists of a human mother and a Changeling brother, and they are the only family she has ever known and loved."

There actually is a psychological syndrome—Capgras syndrome—in which people believe that someone they know well or love has been replaced by an imposter. Jennifer is not delusional, however: In her world, the replacements are very real. "I've read of this syndrome and find it fascinating as to what would make someone think such a thing," Pruett said. "Who knows—maybe there really are Changelings in our world already. But this isn't just someone's imagination, no matter how badly Jennifer would want it to be."

The first issue of *Midnight Sky*, which

picks up from the Free Comic Book Day story, is scheduled for July or August release, but Pruett said that Scout is looking at strategies to maintain reader interest in the interim: "One thing we're considering is to possibly have a short story or two run in the back of various Scout Comics titles leading up to the month of release in order to

Johnson, the writer of Scout Comics' *Smoketown*—which is one of my favorite all-time comic series," Pruett said. "I didn't know Scott before *Smoketown*, but as the series developed, I just fell in love with the raw emotion that Scott was able to bring to each story. He is excellent in portraying each character's feelings just through subtle facial expressions or body language. I just knew I had to work with him some day.

"So, when looking for an artist for *Midnight Sky*, I naturally thought of him and offered it to him. He accepted, and I couldn't be happier. Scott is a true talent, and I think once more readers become aware of him, they will come to appreciate him as much as I do."

Pruett has no shortage of ideas for future *Midnight Sky* story arcs: "Like all my comic series I create, I always have multiple storylines in my head just dying to get out onto paper. Because of the difficulty of doing ongoing series for independent publishers, I write in story arcs of four to six issues with every intention of continuing each series as long as the readers and retailers want to read more.

"So I can say that *Midnight Sky* is envisioned as an ongoing series with multiple story arcs—but how many will ultimately be up to the reading audience. I would love to write 100 issues of *Midnight Sky* and keep it going forever. But one thing I do promise is that I will always finish off a story arc so there is a complete story; no one will be left hanging.

"Scott's come up with some great ideas on his own that I'd love to expand on, too. This is truly a real collaboration between writer and artist. The only problem is that each idea is so good it will take four to six issues per idea just to wrap those plot threads up. So we have enough material to go on for years!"

Scout Presents Midnight Sky Free Comic Book Day 2019 will be available in many participating comic shops on May 4th—but you might want to let the folks at your friendly neighborhood comic shop know right away that you're interested, rather than waiting 'til the *Midnight* hour.

by **Cliff Biggers**

Coming Comics—Image in April

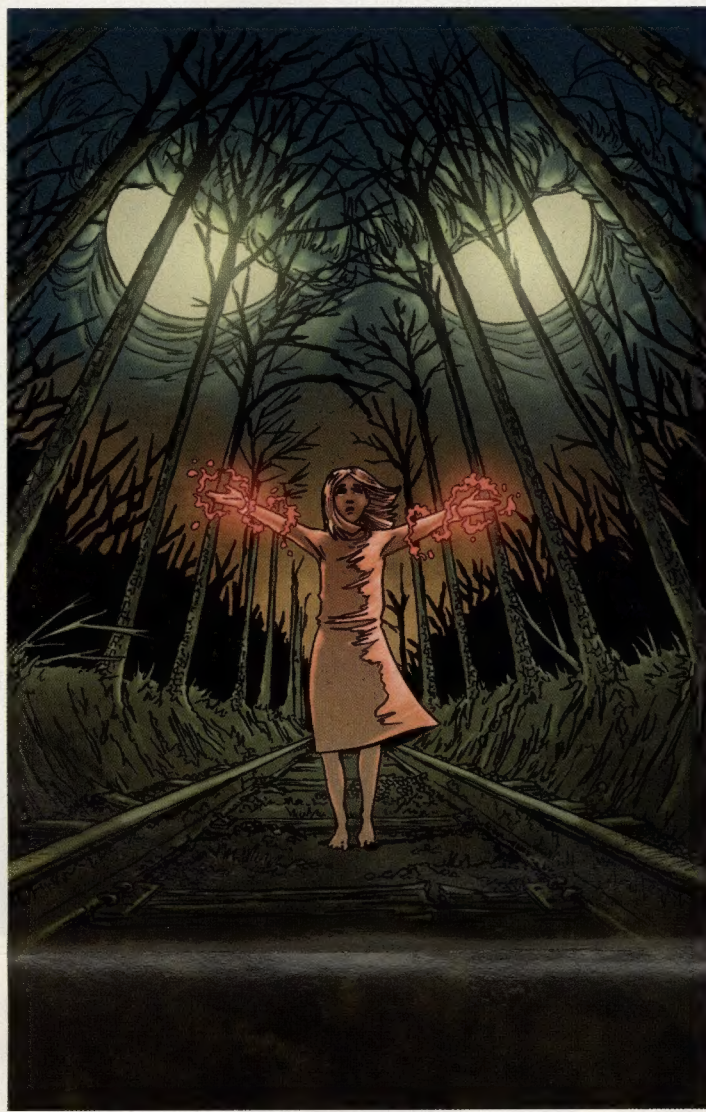
Set ten years after the conclusion of *Descender's* storyline, magic has taken the place of machinery, and the rules are very different indeed in *Ascender* #1 (by Jeff Lemire & Dustin Nguyen). Mila, the daughter of Andy and Effie from *Descender*, spends her days exploring the lonely wilds of the planet Sampson and trying to stay out of the clutches of the evil disciples of the all-powerful vampire witch known only as Mother. But, like her parents, Mila doesn't like to play by the rules, and when a certain robot pal of her dad's shows up, nothing will ever be the same!



Spring is in the air, which means it's time for the final seasonal *Curse Words* special, *Curse Words: Spring Has Sprung Special* (by Charles Soule & Ryan Browne), telling the story of the greatest, most tragic love story in all of comics: Wizard and Ruby Stitch.

After posing as a man to join the army, Jenner Faulds returns home to The Feld for a new start as a "Fairman"—a specially licensed private investigator. But sexism didn't end on the battlefield, and as the only "Fairlady," Jenner gets stuck with the cases nobody else wants in *Fairlady* #1 (by Brian Schirmer, Claudia Balboni, & Marissa Louise). Hitting the streets to solve The Feld's overlooked mysteries, Jenner finds that the smallest cases hide the biggest secrets.

Sam and Lielet are two new friends living in Ethiopia. They're dealing with the



keep *Midnight Sky* out in the public eye and to possibly give some background material to the world of *Midnight Sky*. I'm not positive if we'll be able to do this, but it's an intriguing idea. I just need to make sure that the artist, Scott Van Domelen, has the time in his busy schedule to do these short stories and not take too much away from his work on the regular series. Otherwise, I am currently talking to a couple of artists about possibly doing these short stories, if necessary."

Artist Scott Van Domelen is a vital member of the *Midnight Sky* creative team. "Scott was introduced to me by Phillip Kennedy

COMIC SHOP NEWS
Published weekly
since 1987 by Comic Shop News, Inc.
©2019 Comic Shop News, Inc. All Rights Reserved

EDITORS

Cliff Biggers
Ward Batty

Editorial Office
2770 Carillon Crossing
Marietta, GA 30066
cliffbig@comicshopnews.com

Business Office
3717 Evans Dale Dr.
Atlanta, GA 30340
wbatty@csnsider.com

www.csnsider.com
twitter.com/csnsider

Printed by Transcontinental Interglobe, Beauceville, QC, Canada



CONTINUED FROM BACK COVER

Comic Shop News

kind of problems that all kids have: judgmental social cliques, condescending adults, alienation... and a legendary brain-eating monster straight out of folklore. Sure, it's not going to be easy, but all they have to do is live through it in *Little Girls GN TP* (by Nicholas Afleje, Sarah DeLaine, & Ashley Lanni).

Dragons. Monsters. Tricksters. The Rat Queens have seen—and slain—all. But when a dying man of great wealth hires our heroes to exact revenge for the murder of his prized unicorn, Betty, Hannah, Braga, Violet, and Dee are suddenly thrust into a quest that may bring them face to face with a mythological creature thought only to exist in bedtime stories. This is Palisade's urban legend, and it will end with either death or a mass fortune in *Rat Queens Special: Swamp Romp* (by Ryan Ferrier & Priscilla Petraitis).



A team of fearless adventurers uncovers the secrets behind UFOs, monsters, and lost civilizations in *Section Zero #1* (by Karl Kesel & Tom Grummett), a miniseries that the creators describe as "Jack-Kirby-does-The-X-Files."

Return to the world of Saturn City and the various twisted characters who live there, as Simon Cooke embarks on a trek across the world to discover the illicit secrets of the so-called Illuminati—leaving his beloved city open to all manner of desperate depravity—in *Sex Volume 6: World Hunger TP* (by Joe Casey & Piotr Kowalski), an all-new sixth volume of the acclaimed series.

Image collected editions include:

- *Blackbird Volume 1 TP*, collecting *Blackbird* #s 1–6.
- *East of West Volume 9 TP*, collecting *East of West* #s 39–42.
- *Exorsisters Volume 1 TP*, collecting *Exorsisters* #s 1–5.
- *Freeze Volume 1 TP*, collecting *Freeze* #s 1–4.
- *Gideon Falls Volume 2: Original Sins TP*, collecting *Gideon Falls* #s 7–11.
- *Hack/Slash Omnibus Volume 6 TP*, collecting *Hack/Slash: Son of Samhain* #s 1–5, *Resurrection* #s 1–12, *Me Without You One-Shot*, and more.
- *Kick-Ass: New Girl Volume 2 TP*, collecting *Kick-Ass* #s 7–12.
- *Mage Volume 6: The Hero Denied Book Two TP*, collecting *Mage: The Hero Denied* #s 9–15.

Comic Shop News



- *Magic Order Volume 1 TP*, collecting *The Magic Order* #s 1–6.
- *Prism Stalker Volume 1 TP*, collecting *Prism Stalker* #s 1–5.
- *Rose Volume 3 TP*, collecting *Rose* #s 13–17.
- *Spawn: Dark Horror TP*, collecting *Spawn* #s 276–283.
- *Unnatural Volume 2 TP*, collecting *Unnatural* #s 5–8.
- *Warning Volume 1 TP*, collecting *The Warning* #s 1–5.



Coming Comics— AfterShock in April

Tragedy strikes the Beharrell family in the form of a debilitating stroke. Now the youngest child in the family is convinced his paralyzed father didn't truly fall ill but is possessed by something sinister in *The Replacer GN* (by Zac Thompson & Arjuna Susini). He believes a demon has come to take away his jolly, agreeable, tech-obsessed Dad. But no one seems to see the monster—and with every passing day, his father falls deeper into the clutches of evil.

For nearly two centuries, scholars have wondered how on earth *Mary Shelley*, a 19-year-old girl, was able to conjure one of the most frightening and enduring horror stories of all-time: *Frankenstein*. But with the recent discovery of *Mary Shelley's* secret memoir, the truth is finally revealed: *Mary Shelley* didn't just write *Frankenstein*; she

lived it. Traveling back to that historic Geneva winter of 1816, *Mary*, her fiancé Percy, sisters Claire and Fanny, and the celebrated poet Lord Byron, find themselves guests of the eerie Frankenstein Estate in *Mary Shelley, Monster Hunter #1* (by Adam Glass, Olivia Briggs, & Hayden Sherman). The macabre and frightening events that follow



lead *Mary* to a both gruesome and shocking discovery. Their mysterious host is not at all what they expected, and their intentions will change the course of *Mary's* life forever.

One day all the adults died, all over the world, at the same time. Now it's 20 years later, and the children—all grown up—are still rebuilding the world in *Orphan Age #1* (by Ted Anderson & Nuno Plati). Horses and caravans are the only thin lines connecting tiny, scattered settlements—little sparks in the great dark night. Gasoline is gone; phones are long dead; television, a memory. The only power in America is the New Church, the religion of the angry children, that blames the destruction of the old world on the dead adults. In the settlement of Dallastown, a stranger comes riding in one day, telling a story of escape from the New Church's unstoppable Firemen. The Church is on the march, and the world might burn again—and the only hope might be a scared teenage girl, a gunslinger keeping his secrets, and a woman of few words and long knives.

AfterShock collected editions include:

- *Animosity Volume 4: Powers TP*, collecting *Animosity* #s 14–18.
- *Moth & Whisper Volume 1 TP*, collecting *Moth & Whisper* #s 1–5.
- *Patience Conviction Revenge TP*, collecting the five-issue limited series.

SAVE THE DATE!



**FREE
COMIC
BOOK
-DAY-**

**1st SATURDAY
IN MAY!**

May 4, 2019
www.freecomicbookday.com

FREE COMICS FOR EVERYONE!

Details @ www.freecomicbookday.com

f /freecomicbook @freecomicbook @freecomicbookday

AGE OF CONAN BELIT #1 (OF 5)

Tini Howard (W); Kate Niemczyk (A)
(Marvel JAN190904 \$3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The teenage Belit, obsessed with the sea—as well as the monsters and treasures she thinks are summoning her there—stows away on the ship of the dread Admiral Atrahasis, drawing her into a deadly adventure even she could not predict!

Why Should You Care?

At long last, one of *Robert E. Howard's* most dangerous women comes to comics as a part of the Conan Universe (no, Red Sonja was *not* a creation of REH!). Meet the deadly Belit, tapped as one of comics' five greatest pirates by *Wired* magazine!

AGE OF X-MAN: APOCALYPSE AND X-TRACTS #1 (OF 5)

Tim Seeley (W); Salva Espin (A)
(Marvel JAN190959 \$3.99)

What's the Scoop?

X-Man has created a utopia for mutants—a utopia where no one knows love. Thankfully, a hero rises up to lead the rebellion against this way of life and to teach the ways of family and romance. Join Apocalypse and his rebel X-Tracts as they strive to teach the world to love again!

Why Should You Care?

Age of X-Man continues to turn the mutantverse inside out with this story that casts Apocalypse as the rebel hero.

AGE OF X-MAN: PRISONER X #1 (OF 5)

Vita Ayala (W); German Peralta (A)
(Marvel JAN190953 \$3.99)

What's the Scoop?

In the Age of X-Man, when you break the law, you aren't sent to just any prison. You're sent to the Danger Room—a penitentiary filled with the roughest and meanest mutants that don't fit into X-Man's utopia. They each have a reason for being there. And they're all ready to kill each other. But that's about to change because the newest prisoner just arrived: Lucas Bishop!



Why Should You Care?

X-Man's utopian creation is fraying around the edges—and it looks like Bishop is the man to help it unravel entirely!



ASSASSIN NATION #1

Kyle Starks (W); Erica Henderson (A)
(Image JAN190122 \$3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The World's Former Greatest Hitman hires the 20 best assassins in the world to be his bodyguards. Now these mean-as-hell hired guns and murderers must work together to keep the new crime boss safe while attempting to solve the mystery of who's trying to off him.

Why Should You Care?

If you've had your fill of grim 'n' gritty and you're tired of the overdone assassin trope, then this twisted series, which combines action and dark humor, is the book for you!

BATMAN DAMNED #3 (OF 3)

Brian Azzarello (W); Lee Bermejo (A)
(DC JAN190540 \$6.99)

What's the Scoop?

Batman's most baffling case brings him face to face with his worst nightmare in this highly anticipated finale!

Why Should You Care?

Don't expect to see more of the nudity that made the first issue so controversial—but *Brian Azzarello's* grimdark storytelling is still here, along with the stunning art of *Lee Bermejo*!

BATMAN WHO LAUGHS: THE GRIM KNIGHT #1

Scott Snyder & James Tynion IV (W); Eduardo Risso (A)
(DC JAN190535 \$4.99)

What's the Scoop?

The Grim Knight is his world's most dangerous vigilante, unafraid to use any weapon and to go to any lengths to stop those whom he deems worthy of death—and he's trained with the finest arsenal Wayne money can buy. Learn the secret ori-

CSN TOP COMICS

gin of the second-deadliest Batman, hand-selected by the *Batman Who Laughs* to bring his dark plans to fruition.

Why Should You Care?

If you love *The Batman Who Laughs* (and judging from the sales, a lot of you do), then the origin of the Grim Knight is a must-have!

COSMIC GHOST RIDER DESTROYS MARVEL HISTORY #1 (OF 6)

Paul Scheer & Nick Giovannetti (W); Gerardo Sandoval (A)
(Marvel JAN190946 \$3.99)

What's the Scoop?

After going back in time and trying to kill Thanos as a baby, Frank Castle has sworn off trying to alter history. But when he arrives in Earth's past at the birth of the Fantastic Four, how can he resist jumping in on the timeline-altering fun?

Why Should You Care?

Sure, it's out of continuity—but don't let that stop you from enjoying this reality-altering limited series that ties the Marvel Universe timeline into knots!

DARK RED #1

Tim Seeley (W); Corin Powell (A)
(AfterShock JAN191458 \$3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Charles "Chip" Ipswich isn't one of those coastal elites with a liberal arts degree and a job at a social media start-up who knows where all the best brunch places are. No, Chip is one of the "forgotten men" who lives in a rural area in the middle of the country where Jesus still has a place at the dinner



table and where factories send jobs to Calcutta. There's a difference, though: Chip is also a vampire. Stuck working the last shift at a gas station, Chip is lonely and bored... but his dull, bleak life is turned upside down when *she* comes to town.

Why Should You Care?

Join *Tim Seeley* on a journey deep into horror noir territory with this moody new series.

DETECTIVE COMICS #1000

Peter Tomasi & others (W); Dough Mahnke & others (A)
(DC JAN190542 \$9.99)

What's the Scoop?

This 96-page issue is stacked with an unbelievable lineup of talent that will take you on a journey through Batman's past, present, and future... plus a sensational epilogue that features the first-ever DC Universe appearance of the deadly Arkham Knight! But who is under the mask? And why do they want Batman dead? The incredible future of Batman adventures begins here!

Why Should You Care?

This book is a must-have for fans of the Dark Knight—and the striking variant covers allow you to choose which decade of Bat-history you'd like to celebrate!



DIAL H FOR HERO #1 (OF 6)

Sam Humphries (W); Joe Quinones (A)
(DC JAN190556 \$3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Miguel, a teen daredevil, becomes the newest wielder of the Hero Dial—a rotary phone-like device that grants the user superpowers for one hour when they dial H-E-R-O. Will he rise as a new hero in the DC Universe... or crumble under the weight of responsibility the dial thrusts upon him?

Comic Shop News

MARCH

Why Should You Care?

Acclaimed storyteller *Sam Humphries* offers a Wonder Comics miniseries revamp of the classic DC concept—but some things just can't be updated... like that rotary dial!



DOOMSDAY CLOCK #10 (OF 12)

Geoff Johns (W); Gary Frank (A)
(DC JAN190585 \$4.99)

What's the Scoop?

Learn the secrets behind Dr Manhattan and his connection to the DC Universe in this pivotal issue of the hit miniseries.

Why Should You Care?

The true history of the DC Universe is revealed in this epic limited series that just may be the highlight of *Geoff Johns'* storied career!

FIREFLY: BAD COMPANY #1

Josh Lee Gordon (W); Francesco Mortarino (A)
(Boom! JAN191354 \$7.99)

What's the Scoop?

Take a look into the never-before-seen history of one of the most beloved *Firefly* characters in the 'Verse: Saffron! Journey through the early days of her life prior to her fateful meeting/marriage to Mal.



Comic Shop News

Why Should You Care?

A hitherto-unrevealed origin story of a major character? What *Firefly* fan could resist this?

INVISIBLE KINGDOM #1

G. Willow Wilson (W); Christian Ward (A)
(Dark Horse JAN190409 \$3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Meet two women—a young religious acolyte and a hard-bitten freighter pilot—who separately uncover a vast conspiracy between the leader of the system's dominant religion and the megacorporation that controls society. On the run from reprisals, this unlikely pair of rebels risk plunging the world into anarchy if they reveal the truth. But when your beliefs betray you, what other choice is there? By Hugo Award-winning writer *G. Willow Wilson* (*Wonder Woman*, *Ms Marvel*) and Eisner Award-winning artist *Christian Ward* (*Black Bolt*, *ODY-C*).

Why Should You Care?

Science fiction and religion: two subjects that have trouble finding a comics audience. But this provocative series by Hugo Award-winning writer *G. Willow Wilson* is an exception to the rule...

JESUSFREAK HC

Joe Casey (W); Benjamin Marra (A)
(Image NOV180038 \$17.99)

What's the Scoop?

The year is 26 CE. A young Nazarean carpenter is having some trouble adjusting to the violent world around him—and finding his place within it. He knows he's different, but he doesn't know why. Not yet, anyway...

Why Should You Care?

Two must-read religious-themed comics in one month? We're truly blessed!



MEET THE SKRULLS #1 (OF 5)

Robbie Thompson (W); Niko Henrichon (A)
(Marvel JAN190935 \$3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The Warners are your typical family. Dad works at Stark. Mom works in a senator's office. Jennifer and Alice are students at Stamford High School. The only thing that

makes them different is that they're shape-shifting Skrulls and have infiltrated our society to pave the way for a Skrull invasion...

Why Should You Care?

Hank Johnson: Agent of Hydra meets *The Americans* with this tale of villainy and alien sleeper agents...



MORNING IN AMERICA #1

Magdalene Visaggio (W); Claudia Aguirre (A)
(Oni JAN192008 \$3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The year is 1983. A series of disappearances afflicts Tucker, Ohio, following the opening of a mysterious new factory. But when the town finds itself under siege from strange monsters, it's up to an intrepid girl gang of no-account teen delinquents to try and figure out what's happening and save everyone's lives before it's too late.

Why Should You Care?

Take *Stranger Things*, replace the adolescent nerds with antisocial teenage girls, shake well, and wait 'til you see what happens next!

RONIN ISLAND #1

Greg Pak (W); Giannis Milogiannis (A)
(Boom! JAN191363 \$3.99)

What's the Scoop?

After a mysterious attack wipes out the major cities of 19th century Japan, Korea, and China, survivors from all three lands find refuge on a hidden island and build a new society. Hana, the orphaned daughter of Korean peasants, and Kenichi, son of a great samurai leader, have little in common except for a mutual disdain for each other. But these young warriors will have to work together when they learn that there is a new Shogun and the Island is expected to pay fealty in exchange for protection from a mutant horde that threatens to wipe out all humanity.

Why Should You Care?

Part samurai epic, part martial-arts extravaganza, part horror tale, and part monster movie (and yes, there is a difference), *Ronin Island* explores cultural differences against an apocalyptic backdrop.



SABRINA THE TEENAGE WITCH #1 (OF 5)

Kelly Thompson (W); Veronica Fish (A)
(Archie JAN191586 \$3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Sabrina is a teen witch who's struggling with balancing the double life of high school and her burgeoning powers. Newly relocated to Greendale with her aunts Hilda and Zelda (also witches), Sabrina is trying to make the best of being the new girl in town—which so far includes two intriguing love interests, an instant rivalry, a couple of misfits that could turn into BFFs, and trying to save the high school (and maybe the world) from crazy supernatural events.

Why Should You Care?

At last, Archie Comics has given up on the idea of waiting for *Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa* to finish his *Sabrina* tale, and they're bringing in new storytellers to relaunch the teenage witch in a new series. Now, let's hope they show the wisdom to do the same thing with *Afterlife with Archie*...

SIX MILLION DOLLAR MAN #1

Christopher Hastings (W); David Hahn (A)
(Dynamite JAN191131 \$3.99)

What's the Scoop?

It's the 1970s. Things are going great. Steve Austin heads to Japan to help Secret Agent Niko Abe stop a madman with missiles. Steve figures, no sweat. But how's



Steve going to complete his mission when his fancy \$6,000,000 body starts going wonky?

Why Should You Care?

Christopher Hastings & David Hahn take readers back to the 1970s in this fast-paced period piece that reminds us that even six million bucks doesn't buy mechanical perfection!

SPIDER-MAN: LIFE STORY #1 (OF 6)

Chip Zdarsky (W); Mark Bagley (A)

(Marvel JAN190927 \$4.99)

What's the Scoop?

In 1962, in *Amazing Fantasy* #15, 15-year-old Peter Parker was bitten by a radioactive spider and became the Amazing Spider-Man! Fifty-seven years have passed in the real world since that event—but what if the same amount of time had passed for Peter as well? Witness the history of Spider-Man from beginning to end, set against the key events of the decades through which he

lived, beginning with the 1960s. When Flash Thompson is drafted to serve during the Vietnam War, Spidey must weigh the question of where his responsibility truly lies.

Why Should You Care?

This compelling real-time limited series unites star storyteller Chip Zdarsky (who gave us an outstanding *Spectacular Spider-Man* run) and superstar artist Mark Bagley, who has illustrated more Spidey comics than any other artist. Fascinating concept, outstanding creators—the only bad news is that's only six issues!

VADER: DARK VISIONS #1 (OF 5)

Dennis Hopeless (W); Paolo Villanelli (A)

(Marvel JAN191054 \$4.99)

What's the Scoop?

Darth Vader has been many things: a Sith warrior, a commander, a destroyer. To many, he is a symbol of fear and mysterious, otherworldly power. But there are some who have seen the Dark Lord in a different light.



There are some corners of the galaxy so dark and desperate that even Vader can be a knight in shining armor.

Why Should You Care?

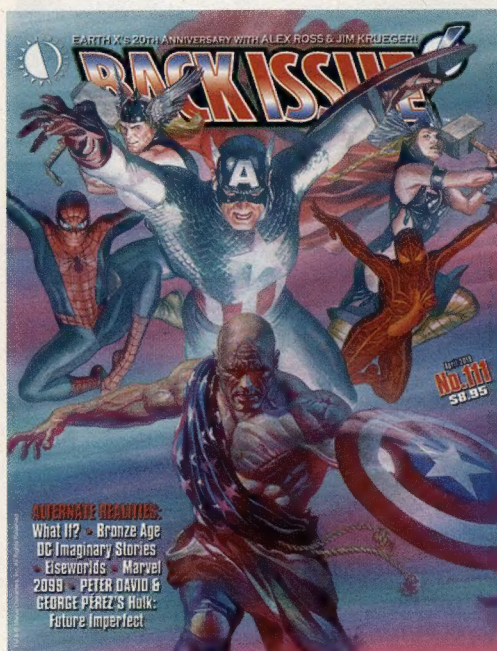
Dennis Hopeless & Paolo Villanelli shine a little light into the Darthness in this five-part limited series.

FYI: : Must-Have Additions to Your Reference Library

BACK ISSUE #111

(TwoMorrows DEC182109 \$8.95)

Venture into the realms of "Alternate Realities" as this issue spotlights Marvel *Earth X*, *What If?*, *Imaginary Stories*, *Elseworlds*, and much more.



MARVEL UNIVERSE SUPER HEROES MUSEUM EXHIBIT GUIDE TP

(Marvel DEC181026 \$34.99)

This museum exhibit catalog spotlights legendary comics creators, up-and-coming talent, editors, executives, artists, art collectors, actors and showrunners, and more. Featuring interviews with and articles by some of the legends and stars in the field—including the late but always great Stan Lee.

SHAZAM: GOLDEN AGE OF WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL SC

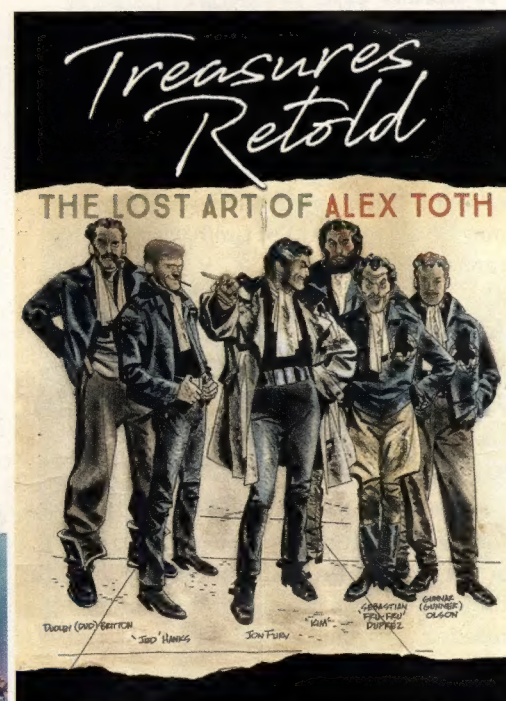
(Abrams JAN191421 \$24.99)

An unprecedented assortment of Captain Marvel/Shazam artifacts is gathered together by award-winning writer/designer Chip Kidd and photographer Geo Spear for this fully authorized celebration of ephemera, artwork, and rare, one-of-a-kind toys.

TASCHEN'S GOLDEN AGE OF DC COMICS BIBLIOTHECA EDITION

(Taschen JAN192102 \$20.00)

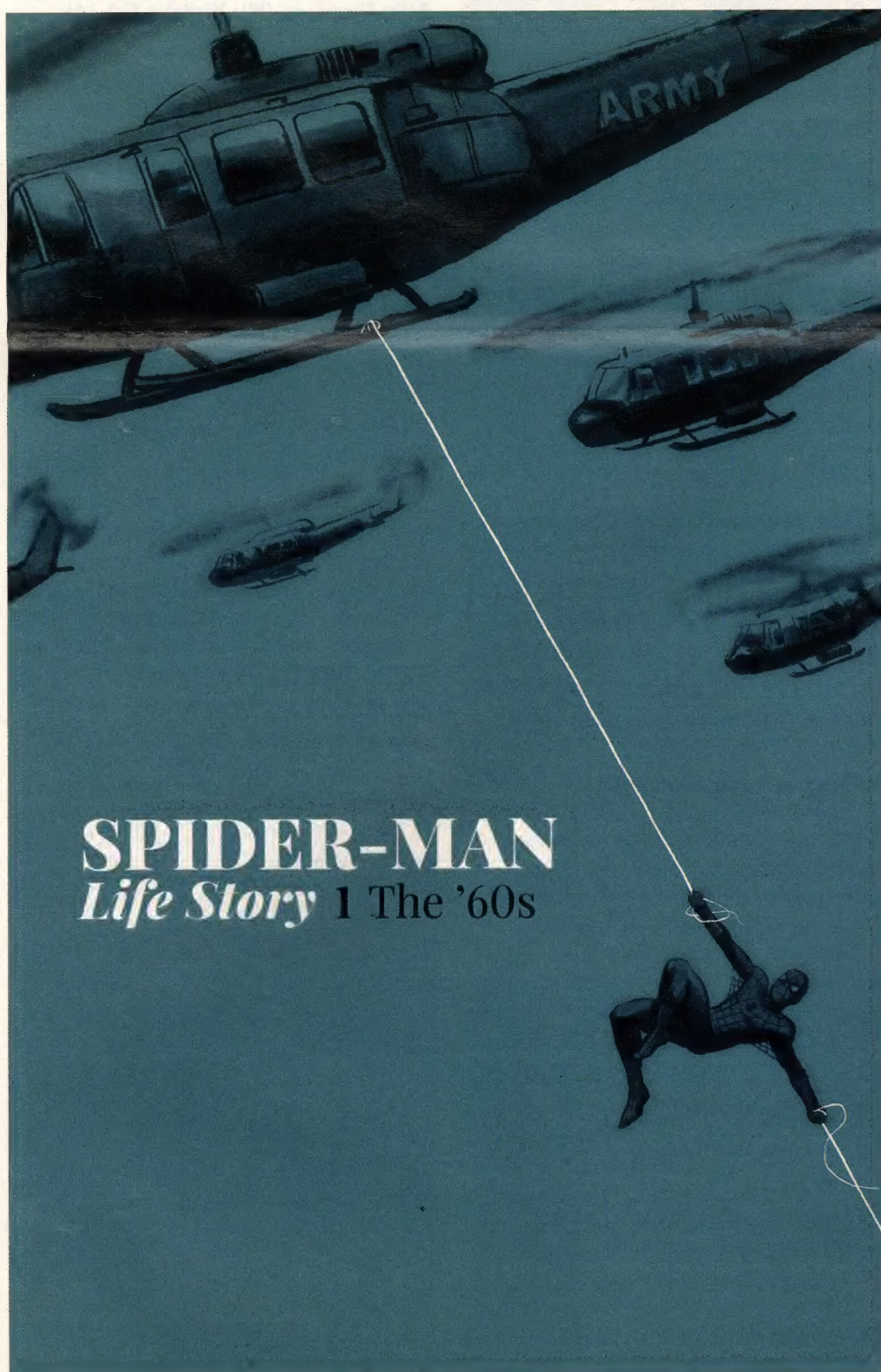
Get the ultimate insights on the heyday of DC Comics. Spanning 1935 to 1956, it includes more than 600 pages of covers and interiors, original illustrations, photographs, film stills, and more, expanded from the Eisner Award-winning *75 Years of DC Comics*.



TREASURES RETOLD: THE LOST ART OF ALEX TOTH HC

(IDW NOV180719 \$39.99)

Don't miss this blockbuster collection of rare and little-seen stories and artwork by the legendary Alex Toth. Included are complete stories from the 1950s and beyond, recently discovered color animation storyboards and presentation drawings, sketches and doodles, industrial comics, individual pages from obscure comics and magazines, and more.



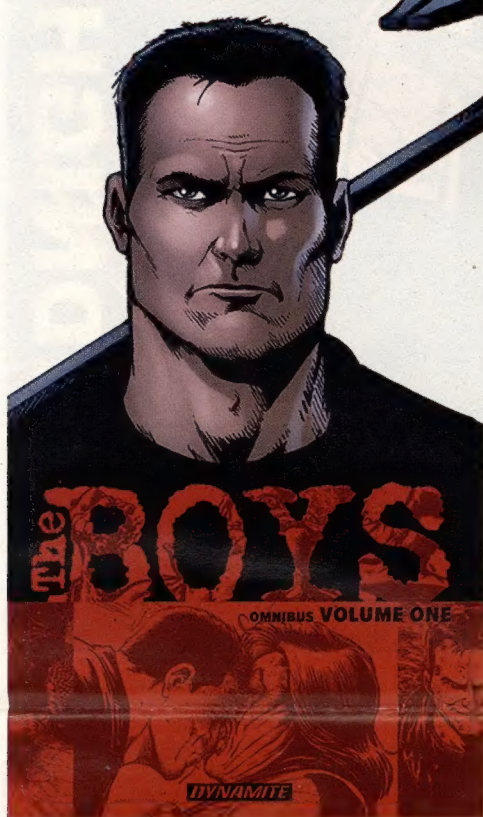
Collected Cool: March's Best Reprint Editions

BATGIRL: THE BRONZE AGE OMNIBUS HC VOL 2

(DC AUG180597 \$99.99)

Continuing the comprehensive reprinting of Batgirl tales, this volume collects stories from *Batman Family* #s 12–20 and *Detective* #s 481–499, 501–502, 505–506, 508–510, & 512–519.

FROM THE EISNER AWARD-WINNING CREATOR OF *PREACHER*
ENNIS • ROBERTSON • SNEJBORG



BOYS OMNIBUS TP VOL 1

(Dynamite DEC181256 \$29.99)

The first 14 issues of the acclaimed and controversial series by Garth Ennis & Darick Robertson are collected in a single volume in advance of *The Boys*' series premiere on Amazon Prime.

DETECTIVE COMICS: 80 YEARS OF BATMAN DELUXE EDITION HC

(DC DEC180641 \$29.99)

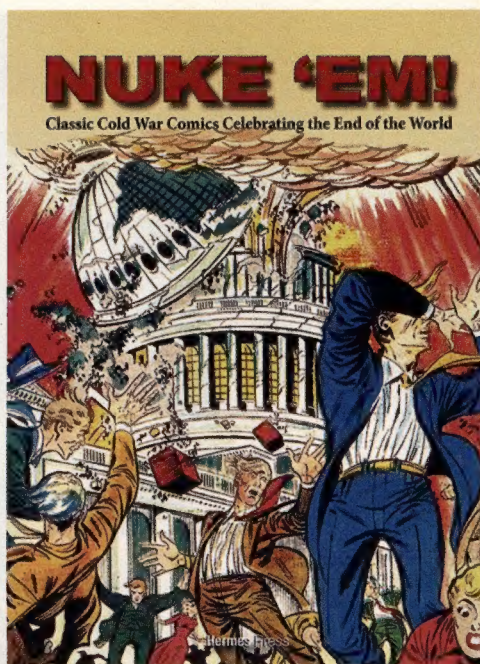
In commemoration of Batman's 80th anniversary, this decades-spanning compendium collects tales from *Detective* #s 1, 20, 27, 38, 60, 64, 66, 140, 151, 153, 225, 233, 267, 298, 327, 359, 400, 437, 443, 457, 474, 482, 500, 567, 742, & #27 (New 52), along with essays, commentary, and new material.

INCREDIBLE HULK #181 FACSIMILE EDITION

(Marvel JAN190983 \$3.99)

You might not be able to afford to the original comic that introduced Wolverine to the world, but this ads-and-all facsimile reprinting is the next best thing! (And you can rest assured that the Marvel Value Stamp is still intact!)

Comic Shop News



NUKE 'EM: CLASSIC COLD WAR COMICS CELEBRATING THE END OF THE WORLD

(Hermes DEC181904 \$49.99)

Revisit the Cold War era, with its nuclear Sword of Damocles hanging over our heads, in this collection of tales that build on our fears with stories of atomic war and World War III. This volume collects *Atomic War!* #s 1–4 (November 1952–April 1953) and *World War III* #s 1–2 (March 1952 and May 1953).

SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN: THE ORIGINAL MARVEL YEARS OMNIBUS VOL 1 HC

(Marvel SEP181004 \$100.00)

Forget those flimsy Dark Horse *Savage Sword* trade paperbacks that presented the original material in a trimmed-down format: Marvel's Omnibus includes *Savage Tales* (1971) #s 1–5 and *Savage Sword of Conan* (1974) #s 1–12 & *Special* #1, with all story pages, text features, and more.



SGT FURY EPIC COLLECTION: HOWLING COMMANDOS TP

(Marvel JAN191113 \$39.99)

It's a war comic presented in the inimitable Marvel style, courtesy of Stan Lee, Jack Kirby, Dick Ayers, and others. Don't miss the tales that introduced Nick Fury to the world, as originally presented in *Sgt Fury and His Howling Commandos* #s 1–19.



SHE COULD FLY TP

(Dark Horse NOV180262 \$19.99)

An unknown woman flying at fantastic speeds and spectacular heights suddenly explodes mid-air. No one knows who she was, how she flew, or why. Luna Brewster, a disturbed 15-year-old girl, becomes obsessed with learning everything in this unforgettable series by Chris Cantwell & Martin Morazzo.

Hot Commodities: March's Best Merchandising & Collectibles

BAT FAMILY BATMAN MULTI- PART STATUE

(DC AUG180672 \$80.00)

DC kicks off a set of five statues that can be posed individually or combined into a massive showpiece. The first statue of the set features the Dark Knight himself as the centerpiece. Perched atop a building's smokestack, Batman looks out into the night, patrolling the streets of Gotham in his quest to protect the city and its citizens.

DC COMICS BOMBSHELLS BIG BARDA STATUE

(DC AUG180677 \$125.00)

Ant Lucia provides the design for this statue reinterpreting Big Barda as a Roller Derby superstar, featuring her trademark colors and an updated helmet design.

DC COVER GIRLS MERA STATUE BY JOELLE JONES

(DC AUG180678 \$125.00)

Walking on water has never seemed as graceful or glamorous as it does in Joëlle Jones' latest entry in the DC Cover Girls line!

MARVEL GALLERY BLACK CAT COMIC PVC FIGURE

(Diamond Select OCT182225 \$45.00)

Caught in the light of the Spider-signal, Spider-Man's frenemy the Black Cat wears her classic costume as she cleans out a safe of cash and gold.



MARVEL PREMIERE HOBGOBLIN STATUE

(Diamond Select OCT182224 \$150.00)

This 12" resin statue depicts one of Spidey's greatest foes in a limited edition of only 3,000 pieces.

**If you enjoy reading
CSN each week,
don't thank us,
thank your retailer!
They pay for the
copies they give
out, because they
know that informed
readers are better
customers...**

**...and because,
you know, love.**

SPIDER-MAN

BY STAN LEE, LARRY LIEBER & ALEX SAVIUK
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

KILLGRAVE, THE PURPLE MAN, HAS ABSORBED THE SPECIAL NERVE GAS...



Follow Spider-Man every week in Comic Shop News!